

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (amended) An electrophotographic apparatus for copying an image onto a sheet of a copy medium, said apparatus having a continuous loop of film for transferring said image to said sheet, a fuser section, and a travel path for transporting said sheet from said film to said fuser section, said travel path comprising:

a vacuum transport for receiving said sheet from said film and moving said sheet towards said fuser;

a fuser entrance guide for receiving said sheet from said vacuum transport and guiding said sheet into said fuser section, said fuser guide being spaced from said vacuum transport whereby a gap is formed therebetween; and

a deflector ~~means~~ positioned within said gap to block and deflect air currents flowing into said gap away from said sheet as said sheet moves across said gap.

2. (amended) The electrophotographic apparatus of claim 1 wherein said vacuum transport includes a housing and wherein said deflector ~~means~~ comprises a baffle attached to said vacuum transport housing.

3. (original) The electrophotographic apparatus of claim 2 wherein said baffle includes a deflecting surface, which extends substantially across said gap.

4. (amended) The electrophotographic apparatus of claim 1 wherein said vacuum transport includes a housing and wherein said deflector ~~means~~ comprises a baffle pivotably attached to said vacuum transport housing.

5. (amended) The electrophotographic apparatus of claim 4 including:

an adjustable detent on said deflector ~~means~~ for maintaining said deflector ~~means~~ in a predetermined position.

6. (amended) The electrophotographic apparatus of claim 5 wherein said detent comprises:

a screw threaded through said deflector means and adapted to engage said vacuum transport housing.

7. (amended) The electrophotographic apparatus of claim 6 wherein said fuser guide has a housing and wherein said deflector means comprises a baffle attached to said fuser guide housing.

8. (amended) A travel path in an electrophotographic apparatus for transporting a sheet of a copy medium to said fuser section, said travel path comprising:

a vacuum transport for moving said sheet towards said fuser;

a fuser entrance guide for receiving said sheet from said vacuum transport and guiding said sheet into said fuser section, said fuser guide being spaced from said vacuum transport whereby a gap is formed therebetween; and

a deflector means positioned within said gap to block and deflect air currents flowing into said gap away from said sheet as said sheet moves across said gap.

9. (amended) The travel path of claim 8 wherein said vacuum transport includes a housing and wherein said deflector means comprises a baffle attached to said vacuum transport housing.

10. (original) The travel path of claim 9 wherein said baffle includes a deflecting surface, which extends substantially across said gap.

11. (amended) The travel path of claim 8 wherein said vacuum transport includes a housing and wherein said deflector means comprises a baffle pivotably mounted on said vacuum transport housing.

12. (amended) The travel path of claim 11 including:

an adjustable detent on said deflector means for maintaining said deflector means in a predetermined position.

13. (amended) The travel path of claim 12 wherein said detent comprises:
a screw threaded through said deflector ~~means~~ and adapted to engage said vacuum transport housing.

14. (amended) The travel path of claim 8 wherein said fuser guide has a housing and wherein said deflector ~~means~~ comprises a baffle attached to said fuser guide housing.

15. (amended) In an electrophotographic apparatus having a travel path for transporting a sheet of copy medium to a fuser section wherein said travel path includes a vacuum transport and a vacuum-assisted, fuser entrance guide spaced therefrom forming a gap therebetween, a method of increasing the efficiency of said fuser guide, said method comprising:

blocking and deflecting air currents flowing through said gap away from said sheet as said sheet moves across said gap with a deflector attached to said electrophotographic apparatus.

16. (amended) The method of claim 12 ~~15~~ wherein said air currents are deflected by positioning a baffle within said gap.